

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00
L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00
AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00
OIC-02 EPG-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 INT-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7270

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

USUN NEW YORK 4801

OECD PARIS 9715

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJ: UNCTAD: COMMODITIES: OBSERVATIONS BY UK SPOKESMAN AND
MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS ON FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

REF: A. LONDON 7719, B. KUALA LUMPUR 2828, C. EC BRUSSELS
4618, D. ROME 7379, E. JAKARTA 5652, F. ABIDJAN 4370

1. LOCAL UK REP (MARTIN) COVERING COMMODITY ISSUES RECENTLY
RETURNED FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH EC COMMISSION STAFF IN BRUSSELS AND
OFFERED COMMENTS ON VARIOUS FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

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2. COPPER - COMMISSION IS TOSSING AROUND AN IDEA DESCRIBED AS
"A LA CARTE", VAGUELY SUGGESTING THAT THERE MAY BE A WAY FOR
SEVERAL PRODUCER-CONSUMER GROUPS TO WORK OUT THEIR OWN AGREEMENTS
WHICH WOULD BE COORDINATED BUT NOT IDENTICAL. COMMENT:.
COMMISSION IS SEARCHING FOR SOME WAY OUT OF THE IMPASSE AND DOES
NOT KNOW WHERE THE ABOVE IDEA MIGHT LEAD BUT APPARENTLY FEELS AN
OVERALL AGREEMENT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE. AS FOR THE PRODUCERS,

PERUVIAN REP (HIGUERAS) DOES NOT HAVE ANY CLEAR IDEAS ABOUT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING BUT SAID PERU WILL RESIST ANY ATTEMPTS TO TAKE DISCUSSIONS OUTSIDE UNCTAD CONTEXT INTO A PRODUCER-CONSUMER FORUM. HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT PRODUCERS WOULD BE SEEKING A SPECIFIC TIME SCHEDULE FOR CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS OR AT LEAST A CLEAR DECISION ON HOW THIS WORK WILL PROCEED SO THAT EACH MEETING DOES NOT SIMPLY LEAD TO YET ANOTHER MEETING AT ANOTHER LEVEL TO GO OVER THE SAME GROUND. HIGUERAS BELIEVES PERUVIAN REP TO MEETING WILL BE AMBASSADOR ARIAS-SCHREIBER WHO IS CURRENTLY IN PARIS FOR CIEC MEETINGS. END COMMENT.

3. TIN AND TUNSTEN. EC CONCERNED OVER FAILURE OF BOLIVIA TO SUBMIT RATIFICATION DOCUMENTS. COMMISSION IS IRRITATED OVER WAY ONE DELEGATION - BOLIVIA (ITURRALDE) - WAS ABLE TO GET ACTION FROM TDB ON A SPECIFIC TIME SCHEDULE FOR TUNGSTEN AND IF BOLIVIA ALLOWS TIN AGREEMENT TO COLLAPSE, COMMISSION IS PREPARED TO GIVE BOLIVIA A VERY HARD TIME ON TUNGSTEN SINCE BOLIVIA'S CREDIBILITY IS G-77 WOULD BE BADLY ERODED.

4. TEA. EC MEMBER (PROBABLY UK) IS LIKELY TO BE DELEGATION TO SUGGEST POSTPONEMENT OF PREP ON TEA AT JULY MEETING OF AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE. (REFTEL D). EC AGREES THAT PREP ON TEA MORE USEFUL AFTER FAO MEETINGS AND UK IS ALREADY THINKING OF REQUESTING A NEGOTATING SESSION TEA EARLY NEXT YEAR. IF OTHER DELS RECEPTIVE TO THIS IDEA, UK WOULD THEN LIKE TO REQUEST THAT PREP ON TEA LATER THIS YEAR BE A TWO-WEEK MEETING. COMMENT. GIVEN TIGHT SCHEDULING FOR REMAINDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF 1977, SECRETARIAT WILL HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN SCHEDULING TWO-WEEK TEA MEETING BEFORE CHRISTMAS. END COMMENT.

5. TROPICAL TIMBER. EC DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARIAT CONFIRM THAT MAJOR TOPICS ARE LIKELY TO BE PRODUCTION CONTROLS AND COORDINATION, MARKET ACCESS, AND SHIPPING. THE EC ITSELF IS INCLINED TO FOCUS ON PRODUCT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND MARKET RESEARCH. COMMENT. UNCTAD SECRETARIAT STILL HOPEFUL OF ISSUING DOCUMENTS BY END OF THIS WEEK. END COMMENT.

6. OLIVE OIL - PRODUCERS ARE SEARCHING FOR SOME FORMULATION THAT WILL QUOTE PUT MORE ECONOMIC TEETH UNQUOTE INTO AN ARRANGEMENT RATHER THAN EXTEND THE CURRENT RELATIVELY WEAK INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL COUNCIL.

7. RUBBER - UK REP HAD ALSO GIVEN MISSION INFORMATION SIMILAR TO THAT REPORTED IN REFTEL A). HOWEVER, HE REPORTED THE SPECIFICS OF THE AGREEMENT AS HAVING ORIGINATED

WITH THE PRODUCERS RATHER THAN AS IDEAS TRIED OUT
ON PRODUCERS BY HOPE AS REPORTED IN REFTEL A PARA 3.
IN HIS VERSION THE PRICE BAND OF 1.5 TO 2.1 MALAYSIAN
DOLLARS PER KILO WOULD BE MANAGED THROUGH THE BUFFER
STOCK OF 400,000 TONS AND PRODUCTION CONTROLS. AS FOR
THE EC, EIGHT STATES (EXCLUDING GERMANY) CAN ACCEPT THE
BASIC OUTLINES OF THE PRODUCERS' PROPOSAL BUT WITH NO
CLEAR VIEWS YET ON THE SIZE OF THE MIX BETWEEN STOCKS
AND PRODUCTION CONTROLS AND THE METHODS OF FINANCING THE
STOCKS. THE UK AND ITALY ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN
USING LEVIES AS A METHOD OF FINANCING. UK CALCULATES
THAT USING THE SUGGESTED PRICE RANGE, A LEVY OF 3 PERCENT WOULD
BE ADEQUATE TO COVER A 450,000 TON STOCK OVER A FIVE-
YEAR PERIOD. APPARENTLY, THE EC MEMBERS ARE PREPARED
TO ENDORSE STABILIZATION AT THE JUNE MEETING AND THEN
LET THE PRODUCERS PRESENT THEIR VIEWS ON MECHANISMS WITH
THE EC STATES HOLDING BACK ON THEIR VIEWS ON SPECIFICS
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UNTIL A SUBSEQUENT MEETING. THE JAPANESE ARE VERY
CONCERNED ABOUT BEING LEFT BEHIND BY THE OTHER IMPORTERS.
WHILE THEY AS A GENERAL POLICY PREFER LEVIES AS A METHOD
OF FINANCING WHEN FINANCING IS AGREED THEY ARE NOT
YET PREPARED TO AGREE TO JOINT PRODUCER-CONSUMER FINANCING
OF RUBBER STOCKS AND HENCE UNWILLING TO DISCUSS ANY
ASPECT OF FINANCING AT THIS STAGE. COMMENT. MISSION
WILL COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH UK AND JAPANESE REPS AS
TIME OF MEETING APPROACHES AS THERE ARE SOME AMBIGUITIES BETWEEN
WHAT WE ARE BEING TOLD HERE AND WHAT IS REPORTED IN
REFTELS. END COMMENT.

8. MISSION CONTINUES TO FIND ITSELF HANDICAPPED IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS AND SECRETARIAT
IN NOT RECEIVING GUIDANCE ON US POSITIONS FOR FUTURE
UNCTAD COMMODITY MEETINGS. MISSION APPRECIATES DIFFICULTIES FACED
IN WASHINGTON IN ARRIVING AT AGREED POSITIONS MUCH IN
ADVANCE OF MEETINGS. MISSION'S DIFFICULTIES ARE COM-
POUNDED BY SLOW DELIVERY OF POUCH MAIL SINCE DRAFTS AND/
OR POSITION PAPERS ARRIVE TEN TO FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER BEING
POUCHED. (OPEN AIRMAIL MUCH FASTER). DEPARTMENT MIGHT
CONSIDER CABLING OUTLINES OF U.S. VIEWS ON MEETINGS AS
MUCH IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE WITH FULL POSITION PAPER
FORWARDED LATER. IT WOULD BE EQUALLY USEFUL TO BE ADVISED
WHEN THE US PLANS TO PLAY STRICTLY AN OBSERVER ROLE OR
TO MAKE NO CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS POSITIONS.SORENSEN

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